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ISRAEL SAYS IT IS EXPANDING GROUND OPERATION IN GAZA

Large explosions rocked Gaza Strip on Friday night as Israeli military said the country's ground forces are "expanding their operations tonight"

1.4 million

OF GAZA'S 2.3 MN RESIDENTS HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES | P14

INTERNET SERVICES SNAPPED

- Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said in a national address that Israel has increased its air strikes on Gaza significantly and its ground forces are expanding operation
- Hours earlier, Hamas said Israel completely cut phone network and internet access in Gaza
- The UN warned that many more will die as a result of Israel's continuing siege of Gaza

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DESI IPHONE

Tata Group to buy Wistron's B'luru plant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

TATA Electronics, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is set to make iPhones in India. Taiwan-based Wistron Corp, a contract manufacturer for Apple Inc, said on Friday that it has approved 100% indirect stake sale of Wistron Infocomm Manufacturing (India), which operates an iPhone assembly plant near Bengaluru, to the Tata firm for $125 million. The Bengaluru plant has reportedly committed to ship iPhones worth $1.4 billion. Tata Electronics declined to comment.

Incorporated in 2020, Tata Electronics has a plant in Tamil Nadu's Hosur (40 km from Bengaluru). It employs 5,000 people and makes mobile enclosures.

With the acquisition of the Bengaluru plant, the Tata Group is set to become India's first homegrown iPhone assembler, giving a boost to Apple's efforts to reduce its over-dependence on China. Leading Taiwanese manufacturers Pegatron and Foxconn already have manufacturing facilities near Chennai, where they assemble iPhone 15.

The Mumbai-headquartered conglomerate has also announced plans to open 100 Apple stores across the country. However, Tata Electronics' plans are not limited to mobile phone assembly; its stated roadmap is to position itself as a key player in the global semiconductor and precision manufacturing industry.

Draft report on bills to overhaul IPC, CrPC stalled

Parl Standing Committee on Home Affairs bows to Opposition demand for more time

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A Parliamentary committee reviewing three bills to replace existing criminal laws put off the adoption of the draft laws on Friday amid protests by Opposition members for 'more consultations and time' to study the report. The panel will now meet on November 6 and may adopt the draft report.

Several leaders including Congress's P Chidambaram, DMK's Dayanidhi Maran and Trinamool's Derek O'Brien have written to the panel's chairman BJP Rajya Sabha MP Brij Lal, seeking more time to study the draft report. Sources said that the members received the Hindi version of the draft report on Thursday. DMK, Congress and TMC members urged the panel's chairperson to seek another three months time and "stop bulldosing these bills for short-term electoral gain".

Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced the new criminal laws in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, respectively.

ADULTERY LAW, SEC 377 TO BE BROUGHT BACK?

- The panel is learnt to have made recommendations on reinstating the adultery law and Section 377, which criminalises non-consensual sex between men, women or trans persons
- The panel is also learnt to have recommended bringing mob lynching on par with murder | P11

The Standing Committee was given three months to consult and submit the draft bill. Opposition MPs, however, alleged lack of consultation.

"These laws are more than 100 years old and such sweeping changes cannot be done without consultations," said one MP. While the Congress sought wider consultations, the DMK opposed the Hindi names for the new criminal laws.

BJP sources said the panel has engaged in an extensive consultation process and will meet its deadline of three months.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Draft electoral rolls out, spike in number of young voters in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Election Commission on Friday published the Draft Electoral Rolls - 2024 for Karnataka and set December 9 as deadline to file objections and make corrections in voter identity cards. The final rolls will be published on January 5, 2024. The summary revision of electoral rolls with respect to the qualifying date of January 1, 2024, is on.

The number of young voters (18-19 years) has almost doubled compared to the final rolls for 2023. Their number increased from 7,07,488 in 2023 to 13,45,707 in the draft rolls for 2024. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Meena attributed this phenomenal rise to the initiatives launched by the EC and the efforts of officials.

"Block Level Officers (BLOs), Assistant Electoral Roll Officers (AEROs) and Electoral Roll Officers (EROs) played an effective role in the registration of young voters. The appointment of Block Education Officers (BEOs) as AEROs helped in a big way," he told reporters here.

FACT-SHEET

2023 (FINAL ROLLS)
Men: 2,66,82,156, Women: 2,63,98,483, Others: 4,927. Total: 5,30,85,566

2024 (DRAFT ROLLS)
Men: 2,68,02,838, Women: 2,65,69,428, Others: 4,896. Total: 5,33,77,162

The number of voters increased by 2,91,596. It was 5,30,85,566 in 2023. The draft now has 5,33,77,162 voters and of them, 2,68,02,838 are men and 2,65,69,428 women, 4,896 others and 47,172 service electors, Meena said.

In all, 18,88,243 fresh applications were received. Of them, 16,31,547 were approved and 1,71,964 rejected, he said. The EC has achieved cent percent photo and EPIC coverage. Of the 224 assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of 7,06,207 voters. P7

EXPRESS READ

BC will become CM if BJP wins Telangana: Shah

Suryapet: Saying that a candidate from the Backward Classes (BC) will be made the CM if BJP comes to power in Telangana, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused the BRS and Congress of being family-centric | P7

HAL, Safran sign MoU to make engine parts

Bengaluru: HAL and Safran Aircraft Engines, a French aero engine design development and manufacturing company, signed an MoU to develop industrial cooperation in manufacturing parts for commercial engines | P7

Murthy's 70-hr work week view draws mixed reactions

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

INFOSYS founder Narayana Murthy's request to youngsters over the 70-hour work week has sparked a debate as a few start-up founders and business leaders seconded his viewpoint and some have opposed saying quality of work done is greater than clocking in more hours, and that it is tough for young employees to dedicate 12-13 hours to work each day along with an additional 2-4 hours of commute time.

On Thursday, in conversation with former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai, Murthy said, "My request is that our youngsters must say, 'this is my country, I want to work 70 hours a week.'" He stressed that if the country wants to make significant progress, then the youth would have to work hard.

JSW group chairman Sajjan Jindal and Ola Cabs CEO and co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal endorsed Murthy's statement. Jindal said, "It is not about burnout, it is about dedication. Aggarwal too said it is not our moment to work less and entertain ourselves.

CONTINUED ON: 11

Onion price up, govt offloads buffer stock

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE national average price of onion rose to ₹43 per kg over the last few days, a 43% rise over the previous year's price of ₹30. In Delhi, onion's price has gone up by 57% to ₹47.

With elections to five states coming up, the rise in prices forced the Centre to intervene, as it decided to step up the release of its buffer onion stock while urging Mozambique to expedite shipment of pulses.

Rohit Kumar Singh, secretary to the Department of Consumer Affairs, said the government has been offloading buffer onions since mid-August and is further stepping up their retail sale at a subsidised rate of ₹25.

As for pulses from Mozambique, procedural hurdles have cropped up since July, causing delays to their shipments. Singh met Mozambique High Commissioner, Ermindo A Pereira, and called for an expedited shipment process of tur (pigeon pea) pulses. Analysts say large-scale hoarding as well as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are delaying the import of tur. SPS means quarantine and biosecurity measures taken before introducing commodities to other countries to check contaminants that can potentially cause diseases in humans, animals, or plants.

Poor monsoon rainfall in pulses-producing areas like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh led to fall in production and aggravated speculation. Poor rainfall had affected production in 2022 as well, the impact of which is also being felt this year.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

Sri Maharshi Valmiki Jayanthi
&
Sri Maharshi Valmiki Award Presentation Ceremony

Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Garlanding the Statue of Shri Maharshi Valmiki : Date: 28.10.2023, Time: 9.30 A M
Place: "Shri Maharshi Valmiki Tapovana", (Opp: Shasakara Bhavana)
Stage Programme : At 10.00 A.M, Place: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Koojantham Ramaramethi Madhuram Madhuraksharam II
Aaruhya Kavithashaakhaam Vanda Valmiki Kokilam II

Inauguration
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

August Presence
Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dr. H C Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare

Floral Tribute to the Statue of Shri Maharshi Valmiki by
Sri B Nagendra
Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Youth Empowerment, Sports and Bellari District Incharge Minister

Divine Presence
Sri Sri Sri Prasannananda Puri Mahaswamiji
Pontiff, Sri Maharshi Valmiki Gurupeeta, Rajanahalli
Harihara Tk, Davanagere Dist.

Presided by
Sri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Constituency

Hon'ble Union Ministers, Ministers of State, all Ministers of Karnataka Government, Members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, MLA's, MLC's & all Elected Representatives will grace the occasion.

All Are Welcome

GRAND PROCESSION

The grand procession along with "Valmiki Jyothi" starts from Sri Maharshi Valmiki Mahasamsthan Aadi Gurupeeta, Sri Bedara Kannappa swamy Temple, Basavanagudi. A procession of glorious tableaux with performances by cultural tribal art troupes will reach Tapovana in front of the Shasakara Bhavana along with Sri Maharshi Valmiki's portrait carriage from Basaveshwara Circle. After garlanding the statue of "Sri Maharshi Valmiki" by Hon'ble Chief Minister, the stage programme will be ceremonially launched at Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha.

Sri B. Nagendra, Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Tribe Welfare, Youth Empowerment and Sports during his stay at Golur hamlet, H D Kote Taluk in Mysuru district receives grievances from the Tribal Communities.

Smt. Vandita Sharma, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt of Karnataka
Maj. Manivannan P, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt., Social Welfare Dept
Dr. E Venkataiah, IAS, Advisor, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan
Dr. K Rakesh Kumar, IAS, Commissioner, Social Welfare Dept
Naveen Kumar Raju S, IAS, Executive Director, Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Association
Kallesh B, IAS, Director, Scheduled Tribe Welfare Dept
Padmanabha J.G, Managing Director, Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, Bengaluru
Dr. Srinivasa L, Director, Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute, Mysuru

It is the duty of every citizen to protect and preserve the natural environment including forest, rivers, lakes, and wildlife.